

JAMES L. BLANKS

"In Hurricane Creek, Lauderdale County, Mississippi resides James L. Blanks, James W. Blanks, father of James L. Blanks, was born in Georgia in 1806, spent his early life on the farm and took up his permanent residence in Mississippi in 1851. He was married to Sarah Adear, of South Carolina, in 1826. He died about 1886, his wife about 1876.

J. L. Blanks, the subject of this sketch, was born in 1835 in Gwinnett County, Ga., and came to Miss. with his parents and settled in Lauderdale County. His opportunities for acquiring an education were not good. He was married in 1854 to Miss Eliza A. Williams, of Lauderdale County, Miss., and has had ten children - five sons and five daughters; Callie, Irving, Joseph J., Sarah, Elizabeth, Charles F., John H., Laura May, Ida Gray, and Edward A., and seven of these survive.

He engaged in planting, and continued in that business till 1861, when he enlisted in the Sixth Miss. Battalion, Colonel Sears commanding. Owing to continued bad health, Mr. Blanks was discharged in the autumn of 1863. Returning home he resumed planting. He had entered land from the United States government in 1855, the homestead where he now resides. By additional purchases he increased his landed interest of 1200 to 1400 acres, which ranks as average land of the county.

Mr. Blanks has some exceedingly fine soil, 120 bushels of corn, 2 bales of cotton, and 115 bushels of oats per acre, having been raised upon it. Mr. Mr. Blanks is one of the best farmers of Lauderdale County, having perhaps taken more premiums for heavy yields than any other of its citizens. His average yield of cotton is one bale per acre. He is a strong advocate of the use of commercial fertilizers, fertilizing heavily all crops grown.

1. As taken from Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Miss. Vol. I. Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891, Chicago, Ill., page 393.

Mr. Blanks is a strong friend of education. His son, John H. Blanks, is a graduate of Howard College, Birmingham, Ala., also of Nashville Medical College. He is now engaged in the hospital of the college, having won the position because of merit.

Mr. Blanks and his wife are members of the Primitive Baptist Church, of twenty-five years' standing. A daughter of Mr. Blanks, Callie, is married to Dr. M. V. B. Miller, of Meridian, Miss. He has a nephew who is a professor in the Nashville Medical College. He is one of the state's best citizens, and has a host of friends."

1. James W. Blanks 1806-1886
 Sarah Adair -1876 (Broke leg, took pneumonia and died)
2. James Lafayette Blanks 1835 - : "Little Grandpaw"
 Eliza A. Williams
3. Irving Ralph Blanks : "Big Grandpaw"
 Mary Jane Huff
4. Alma Iantha Blanks Keeton Cooper
5. Maude Octavia Keeton Saxon Charles
6. Lillie Maude Saxon Welch
7. Andrew Jarvis Welch 1920-